

**Course Objectives/Course Outline**  
**Spokane Community College**

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**Course Title:** *Introduction to Dental Assisting*

**Prefix and Course Number:** DENT 111

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**Course Learning Outcomes:**

**By the end of this course, a student should be able to:**

1. Identify the role of the dental assistant through demonstration of knowledge of equipment, patient care and ergonomics, instruments and tray set-ups, handpieces and burs, maintaining the oral cavity, instrument transfer and topical and local anesthetic.
2. Use dental nomenclature relating to dental chairside equipment and procedures orally and in writing.
3. Define and spell terminology used in this unit.
4. Identify when and where to use personal protective equipment prior to, during and after treatment following OSHA/WISHA standards.
5. Be familiar with Washington State Department of Health Scope of Practice as related to chairside procedures allowable in Washington State.
6. Demonstrate professional interpersonal communication both verbal and nonverbal with instructors and peers.

**Course Outline:**

**Equipment:**

- a) Identify and describe the function and routine care and maintenance of the major pieces of equipment found in the dental operator.
- b) Identify each piece of equipment found in the operator.
- c) List the daily maintenance duties for the chairside assistant including morning and evening routines.

**Patient care and ergonomics:**

- a) Demonstrate the sequence of seating and dismissing the dental patient in preparation for treatment.
- b) Demonstrate the correct seated position of the dental assistant and operator at chairside using correct ergonomics.
- c) Demonstrate supine and sub supine positions for the dental patient.

**Dental Instruments:**

- a) Describe the color-coding system.
- b) Identify and describe the parts and functions of dental instruments.
  - i) Cutting instruments
  - ii) Non-cutting instruments
- c) Describe the three and four-number instrument formulas and explain the significance of each number in the formula.
- d) Tray Set-ups and Sequence of Procedure for Restoration: identify all of the items on the following trays and describe use of each item:
  - i) Examination
  - ii) Anesthetic
  - iii) Dental dam
  - iv) Cavity preparation
  - v) Amalgam restoration

**Dental Handpieces:**

- a) Identify the parts and describe uses of low and high-speed handpieces including attachments.

- b) Identify the appropriate hoses, couplers/attachments for handpieces.
- c) Describe the maintenance of low and high-speed handpieces including cleaning, lubricating and sterilizing according to manufacturer's instructions.
- d) Identify the types, numbers and shapes of dental rotary cutting instruments, discs, stones and mandrels.
- e) Identify friction grip and latch type burs and mandrels.

**Maintenance of the Operating Field:**

- a) Describe maintenance of the operating field by explaining:
  - i) Proper retraction and protection of tissue techniques.
  - ii) Proper viewing for direct and indirect vision with use of the 3-way syringe.
  - iii) Positioning the light for the appropriate arch being worked on.
  - iv) Proper patient, assistant and operator chair positioning (ergonomics).
  - v) Ensuring patient comfort and safety.
- b) Understand and explain the assembling, adjusting, operation and positioning of the high-volume evacuation (HVE) tip in each area of the mouth.
- c) Understand and explain assembling, adjusting, operation and positioning of the 3-way syringe in each area of the mouth.

**Instrument Transfer:**

- a) Identify the different instruments grasps.
- b) Describe the principles of four-handed and six-handed dentistry and explain how they relate to the role of the dental assistant.
- c) Identify the classifications of motions used in four-handed and six-handed dentistry.
- d) Describe the role of a coordinating assistant in six-handed dentistry.
- e) Describe the steps in exchange of instruments using a one handed and two-handed technique at chairside using four-handed dentistry.
- f) Describe the zones of the clock concept as applied to four-handed dentistry.

**Anesthetic:**

- a) List and describe the types, composition, reactions and precautions of anesthetics used in dentistry:
  - i) Topical anesthetic
  - ii) Local anesthetic
- b) Identify injections sites and teeth affected.
- c) Describe the steps of placement of topical anesthetic.
- d) Identify parts of the anesthetic syringe, needle and carpules.
- e) Identify the steps of preparation of the anesthetic syringe.
- f) Identify the sequence of placement of topical anesthetic, assembly of a syringe and steps of administration of anesthetic.